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THE MILITANT

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In Cuba, 'there is no future without the past'
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE | VOL. 81/NO. 23 JUNE 12, 2017

Liberal rage at Trump foreign policy reflects fear of workers

BY TERRY EVANS

With President Donald Trump's trip to Europe and the Middle East, liberal politicians and press, cheered on by middle class radical groups, turned their incessant hysteria to the

COMMENTARY

administration's foreign policy. These forces greeted his participation in NATO's May 25 summit with a chorus of disapproval. Their complaints focused on his criticisms of the financial contributions of Berlin and some other European capitalist regimes to the NATO military alliance, and on claims he is in league with Moscow.

Their true target isn't Trump, but the millions of workers who voted for him. This wing of the ruling capitalist families cannot reconcile themselves to the millions of working people who elected Trump, seeking a way to counter the economic carnage they face from the increasing assaults of the bosses and their government today. These workers want to "drain the swamp" — to beat back the tens of thousands of highly-paid bureaucrats in Washington who seek to "regulate"

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Join Oscar López in fight against US colonial rule

Media slanders target Puerto Rico freedom struggle

El Vocero/Carlos Rivera Giusti

Students in San Juan, Puerto Rico, protest Washington's moves to make Puerto Rican workers and youth pay island's debts May 26. Colonial government is slashing funding for schools.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — The *New York Daily News,* the *New York Post* and other major news media are at the forefront of a campaign here slandering independence fighter Oscar López, who was released May 17 after nearly 36 years in U.S. prisons.

Charging that López is an "unrepentant terrorist," the media bosses are demanding the National Puerto Rican Day Parade committee in New York reverse its decision to honor him as a "National Freedom Hero" and dis-invite López from being one of the marchers at the head of the June 11 parade.

There will also be a "Contingent for Oscar and Puerto Rico's Decolonization" in the parade. Since his release López has been speaking at meetings

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Join Socialist Workers Party campaigning in Albany!

BY TERRY EVANS

NEW YORK — "It's tens of millions of workers, not Donald Trump, who are the target of the relentless efforts of liberal politicians and newspaper editors, backed by the petty-bourgeois left, to invalidate the election," said Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Albany mayor, at a Militant Labor Forum here May 26. She spoke alongside Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for New York mayor.

Trowe described the broad assaults working people have faced over years, altering our conditions of life in unprecedented ways. The active working class has shrunk, as the bosses' economic crisis has pushed millions out of the workforce. For the first time in decades, life expectancy for workers is falling, birth rates are going down, and young workers are stuck living with their parents longer and longer. The only thing going up is deaths from an epidemic of opiates and suicides.

"The propertied rulers sense work-

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'Militant' fights to reverse censorship in Florida prison

THE MILITANT

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Asia-Pacific conference in Philippines calls for end to US anti-Cuba policies
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE | VOL. 81/NO. 18 MAY 8, 2017

Spring drive, 'Militant' fund expand reach of paper, books

BY MARY MARTIN

The Socialist Workers Party's spring campaign to introduce the party, the *Militant* newspaper and books from Pathfinder Press to working people ends its third week with party members reporting on debates and discussions they're having about Washington's moves to protect its imperialist interests from Afghanistan to Iraq, Syria, Korea and Venezuela.

SWP members are also building May Day marches across the country

SWP will keep right on campaigning across US

BY JOHN STUDER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The SWP will continue to actively engage in politics, including running candidates within the law and in ways that maximize protections for contributors and supporters," Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party 2016 candidate for U.S.

REPORT ON FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION HEARING

Socialist Workers Party: Amnesty for immigrants!

All out for May 1 protests! No deportations!

Front page of Militant building May Day protests against deportations impounded by Florida prison authorities under false claim it encourages "riot, insurrection, disruption of institution."

BY SETH GALINSKY

Florida prison authorities are censoring the *Militant* newsweekly again.

The assistant warden at Santa Rosa Correctional Institution ordered the impoundment of three issues in April and May, falsely claiming an article in each "encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption;" "encourages riot, insurrection, disruption of the institution;" and "it encourages or instructs in the commission of criminal activity."

The impoundment notices don't even indicate which article the assistant warden claims are offensive. Instead, each notice gives the page numbers the articles are on. The ar-

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UK rulers push 'national unity' to attack workers' political rights

BY DAG TIRSÉN

MANCHESTER, England — "I don't think it is right to blame any religion or immigrants for the terrible bomb attack on the Arena," said Kirsty Haig when Communist League members knocked on her door May 27. They were campaigning for Peter Clifford, CL candidate for Parliament in Manchester Gorton in the June 8 election. Haig was referring to the reactionary Islamic State-inspired bombing of the Manchester Arena May 22, which killed 22 people. She lives in the neighborhood where the Jamia Qasmia Zahidia Mosque is located, which itself was firebombed a few hours after the explosion.

Caroline Bellamy showed Haig the

Continued on page 4

Deep class divide means some pay for brighter teeth, workers lose theirs

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The carnage visited on working people by capitalism's economic and social crisis today includes millions of workers unable to get essential dental work done, given the astronomical costs involved in paying for root canals, crowns or other such procedures. Instead, many end up having their teeth pulled. Nearly 20 percent of those over 65 do not have a single real tooth left.

A product of sharpening class divisions that target working people, this reality is graphically described in "The Painful Truth About Teeth," an

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Flint officials: Pay for tainted water or we take your home

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After dealing with more than three years of undrinkable water, poisoned by government decisions on the city and state level, residents in Flint, Michigan, have been told by city authorities to pay their water bills or face foreclosure. The water is still suspect.

Some of the bills total nearly $1,000. Those with half a year or more of unpaid bills were given a one-month deadline.

"This is absolutely appalling after what's happened here," Flint resident LeeAnne Walters, one of the leaders of the fight for clean water, told the *Militant* in a phone interview May 11. "City officials now say the water is safe. But it's not at a point where people will drink it from the tap. In our neighborhood we use bottled water only."

In April 2014, in a scheme to save money that was supported by many local officials, Emergency City Manager Darnell Earley — appointed by Michigan Gov. Richard Snyder and given the power to make all financial decisions for the local government — switched the city's water supply from Detroit to the heavily contaminated Flint River.

Even though Flint River water was 19 times more corrosive than the water from Detroit, the state Department of Environmental Quality said Flint didn't need to add a simple corrosion inhibitor to keep lead from leaching out of the pipes. The procedure would have cost just $100 a day.

With the switch, lead levels soared. Young children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning, which affects brain development. City officials insisted the water was safe to drink.

A study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* last year found that the number of children with elevated lead levels in their blood doubled after the switch.

"Our lives will never be the same," said Walters. "Children are struggling health-wise and an emotional toll has been taken. I see the effects every day this has had on my 6-year-old."

As anger grew among working people and the scandal got national press, they packed City Council meetings, organized forums and held protests, often holding bottles of the smelly and discolored water, forcing the city to switch back to Detroit water in October 2015. Five months later the state said they would begin replacing lead pipes in Flint. Today some 20,000 residences still are waiting for the switch.

"It's not only lead pipes," said Walters. "There's leaky valves, the water mains have to be replaced. The whole system needs to be fixed."

In March state officials announced they would no longer subsidize water for Flint residences, ending a 65 percent reduction on water bills. Working people in Flint "pay eight times that of the national average," Walters said.

Authorities claim that more than 90 percent of drinking water samples are now below the Environmental Protection Agency's acceptable lead level of 15 parts per billion. But tests throughout Flint neighborhoods show otherwise.

At Victoria Marx's home lead levels tested at over 75 ppb. "Marx said she was offered replacement fixtures," reported the *Detroit Free Press* March 24, "but said her kitchen faucet can't be replaced without ripping out a section of her kitchen wall. She said she was told she would have to pay to repair the wall herself, and as a part-time retail worker, she can't afford that."

"The biggest thing is for people to realize this is not just happening in Flint, but across the U.S.," said Walters, and workers must "protect themselves and protect their kids."

Tests conducted between December and February in New York City elementary schools showed high lead levels. One school in Brooklyn had levels of 15,000 ppb. Authorities tried to cover up the problem by running the water for two hours the night before the test.

Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike wins concessions

ActiveStills/Haidi Motola

Hundreds of Palestinian political prisoners in Israel ended their 40-day hunger strike May 27 after winning restoration of twice-monthly family visits. The visits for some 6,500 political prisoners were cut in half a year ago when the Red Cross withdrew funding. The Palestinian Authority, which rules the West Bank, agreed to fund the added visits. Sometimes the prisoners didn't even get one monthly visit, since most of their families live in the Palestinian Authority-run West Bank and Israeli authorities often deny permission to enter Israel.

Among other strike demands are better medical attention; access to books, newspapers and correspondence courses; an end to abusive conditions when prisoners are transported; and an end to solitary confinement and overcrowding in jail cells. Demonstrations in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and predominantly Arab towns in Israel backed the strikers. Above, May 9 action in Jaffa, a Palestinian section of Tel Aviv. Signs in Arabic and Hebrew call for freeing political prisoners.

Israeli authorities denied they negotiated with the strikers. However, Israeli media reported that Shin Bet, Israel's police agency, presented the agreement to prisoners, including the strike's central leader, Marwan Barghouti. Authorities allowed him to speak with other prisoners and with representatives of the Palestinian Authority. Shin Bet said other demands would be discussed later.

"Just that Israeli prison authorities agreed to have a dialogue with the strike leaders inside the prison is a win itself, " Khalida Jarrar, a former political prisoner, told the *Militant* May 27 by phone from Ramallah, West Bank.

— SETH GALINSKY

THE MILITANT

Workers in US and Puerto Rico fight together

The 'Militant' champions the fight to end U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico. At right, Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, during visit to Puerto Rico as part of SWP delegation welcoming release of longtime independence fighter Oscar López. "This is a victory for working people in U.S. and worldwide," Hart said.

Militant/Linda Joyce

Osborne Hart says SWP opposes U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947
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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Quebec construction workers protest return-to-work order

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — Thousands of striking construction workers from throughout Quebec demonstrated in Quebec City May 29 to protest the Liberal government's decision to invoke Bill 142 ordering them back to work. Some 175,000 unionized construction workers had walked off the job five days earlier, striking against concession contract proposals, including provisions for forced overtime.

The workers are organized in an alliance of construction workers that includes the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ) and the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) and three other unions. They had been without a contract with the bosses represented by the Quebec Construction Association since April 30.

The union alliance organized mass meetings in 11 cities on May 16 to prepare the strike. The bosses refused to withdraw demands that included abolishing the five-day workweek, letting employers unilaterally change workers' schedules at any time, with no supplementary compensation.

"If the weather is too bad, they will force us to come in on a Saturday, whatever you have planned. I cannot accept that," Alain Lebrasseur, a construction worker on the Champlain Bridge in Montreal, told Global News.

"Employers are asking us to sacrifice time with our families to be available for work," said Michel Trépanier, spokesperson for the alliance of construction unions. "There are limits and they've been reached."

One striker carried a picket sign showing a ballot with a choice between family and slavery, with an "x" beside family. The second day of the strike thousands of unionists demonstrated with their families in several regions of Quebec.

In the Montreal area hundreds of workers picketed at the huge construction sites for the Turcot highway interchange, the new Champlain Bridge, and the CHUM hospital.

From the first day of the strike, Quebec Labor Minister Dominique Vien threatened to outlaw the strike. Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, whose administration has poured millions into construction projects in preparation for the city's 375th anniversary celebration this summer, urged the provincial government to step in.

The government used the law to bar any further strike action and impose mediation through October. After that any unresolved issues will be subject to binding arbitration. The law gives the workers a 1.8 percent salary increase until a new contract is reached — lower than the 2.6 percent workers were demanding. The union alliance says it will challenge Law 142 in the courts.

175,000 construction workers in Quebec strike May 24. Placard on right reads, "My family life is worth as much as the bosses'." Government ordered strikers back to work May 29.

Four years ago the Quebec government used strikebreaking legislation to order some 77,000 residential, commercial, and institutional construction workers back to work.

Congratulations! Militant Fighting Fund over the top

BY LEA SHERMAN

Congratulations to all! With your efforts, the seven-week Militant Fighting Fund campaign has gone over the goal of raising $112,000 — bringing in $113,270. The fund is essential to the paper's budget — for operating expenses; to subsidize the price of introductory subscriptions to help win new readers; to provide low cost and complimentary prisoners' subscriptions; and for fielding reporting teams whenever and wherever important developments in the class struggle break out.

More donations will be coming in earmarked for the recent solidarity and reporting trip to Puerto Rico, where the *Militant* sent Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, Martín Koppel and Linda Joyce to stand with Oscar López Rivera after his release from almost 36 years in U.S. prisons. The capitalist rulers hate him for his uncompromising stance in opposition to U.S. colonialism and for the independence of Puerto Rico.

New contributors gave many hundreds of dollars — mostly ones, twos, fives and tens — to party members campaigning for communism in working class neighborhoods, on workers' picket lines and at social protests.

The fund ran concurrently with the SWP's campaign to introduce the party to workers. Over the seven weeks, working people and youth learned about, discussed and debated the SWP program and the political questions posed by the unfolding worldwide crisis of capitalism today. They bought 1,145 books by Jack Barnes and Mary-Alice Waters, leaders of the party, and 1,252 subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with thousands of single copies.

The *Militant* has almost 150 prisoners who subscribe to the paper and benefit from the fund.

"Every week that we people receive your newspaper, 'The Militant,' it gives us more hope, more strength and more unity," one worker behind bars wrote from Florida. "I ask that you will never give up your stride and that you continue to be a tool and voice for the masses."

The success of the party-building campaigns sets us up to continue to expand the reach of the *Militant* and the Socialist Workers Party.

The SWP will be hosting an Active Workers Conference June 15-17 in Ohio, where party leaders will give presentations on the deepening capitalist economic and social crisis and what working people can do to build a movement to take political power. Classes will discuss the Middle East, the damage to workers struggles from 'political correctness' campaigns and other important questions. If you want to learn more about the party or the conference, contact branches in your area in the directory on page 8.

Militant Fighting Fund

April 1- May 23 (final results)

Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Albany	$4,100	$4,730	115%
Atlanta	$10,725	$10,835	101%
Chicago	$11,850	$11,010	93%
Denver	$750	$775	103%
Lincoln	$350	$355	101%
Los Angeles	$8,450	$8,752	104%
Miami	$3,200	$3,225	101%
New York	$16,600	$16,716	101%
Oakland	$13,700	$13,706	100%
Philadelphia	$3,600	$3,632	101%
Seattle	$7,300	$7,598	104%
Twin Cities	$4,100	$4,866	119%
Washington	$7,350	$7,548	103%
Total U.S.	$92,075	$93,748	102%
CANADA			
Montreal	$5,100	$5,700	112%
Vancouver	$3,000	$2,499	83%
Total Canada	$8,100	$8,199	101%
NEW ZEALAND	$4,575	$4,900	107%
AUSTRALIA	$1,175	$1,430	122%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	$2,450	$2,450	100%
Manchester	$925	$965	104%
Total UK	$3,375	$3,415	101%
FRANCE	$450	$478	106%
Other		$1,100	
Total	$109,750	$113,270	101%
Should be	$112,000	$112,000	100%

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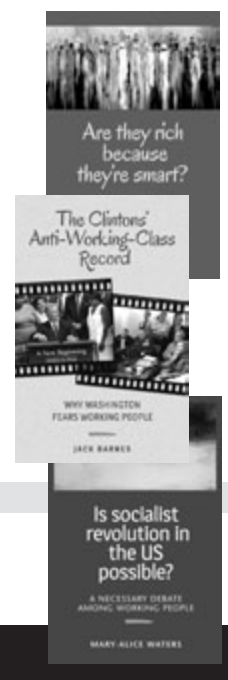

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Trump foreign policy

Continued from front page

us in the interests of the propertied families.

Trump, like all his predecessors in the White House, seeks to advance the interests of the propertied rulers at home and abroad. But the rulers' growing fear of working class resistance leads many — led by the liberals in the Democratic Party — to witch hunt the Trump presidency and attack the rights of those who elected him.

The *Washington Post* claimed Trump has "abandoned" the NATO alliance. Formed under Washington's domination following its victory in World War II, NATO organized the permanent presence of the U.S. military on European soil. Now comprising 28 capitalist regimes, including five that border Russia, NATO draws overwhelmingly on Washington's military might and is used to advance the interests of the strongest imperialist powers, Washington first and then Berlin.

At the summit Trump said openly what the U.S. rulers have long complained about — that Washington's European allies, first and foremost Berlin, don't come close to meeting their agreed-on commitments to foot NATO's bills. He didn't threaten to quit the alliance, instead saying NATO was insufficiently modernized, militarily ready or big enough to counter challenges to capitalist rule in the future.

NATO asks each member capitalist regime to spend the equivalent of two percent of its national gross domestic product annually to augment the size and armaments of their armed forces, and to be ready to join any call to action Washington and other NATO governments deem necessary to defend their rule. As the biggest and richest imperialist power, Washington pays an outsized sum.

Berlin, the strongest capitalist power in Europe, which uses the European Union arrangement to reinforce its economic dominance at the expense of its weaker neighbors, pays only 1.2 percent. For decades the numbers of German combat aircraft, tanks and military personnel have declined, along with its overall military spending.

In his NATO address Trump declined to make any direct reference to the alliance's article five — which says an attack on any pact member requires all the capitalist rulers to respond. *USA Today* asserted that Trump's refusal will "embolden NATO's enemies, including Russian President Vladimir Putin."

But no one thinks Washington, Berlin, London or Paris would launch all-out war against nuclear-armed Moscow should Putin make an incursion into Latvia or Lithuania, any more than they did so when Moscow actually moved on Georgia and Ukraine.

Trump has made it clear his administration will continue, and likely expand, sanctions on Moscow, which hit working people there hardest. NATO has increased the number of troops it rotates through eastern Poland and the Baltic states and Washington deployed a ground-based anti-ballistic missile system to Romania last year.

Denouncing Trump for an "insult to history" in calling out the German rulers, the editorial board of the *New York Times* said May 31 that the president was abandoning Europe to Moscow.

"It is up to Ms. Merkel and Mr. Macron to keep the alliance alive and relevant," they said, at least "until another, wiser president replaces him [Trump]."

While they can economically extort weaker neighbors like Greece and Italy, the imperialist rulers in Berlin rely on Washington to defend Europe from foreign aggression.

Having proclaimed after the summit "We Europeans must really take our destiny in our own hands," German Chancellor Angela Merkel thought more soberly of the real relationship of imperialist forces, and said Berlin's relations with the U.S. were of "outstanding importance."

Reuters/Kevin Cooms

U.S. President Donald Trump pushes U.S. imperialist interests at NATO meeting May 25. Rulers fear of working class fuels liberals' campaign to attack political rights, right to vote.

Looked at from the viewpoint of the U.S. capitalist rulers, the Trump administration's moves to defend their imperialist interests abroad are preferable so far to those of his two predecessors, Barack Obama and George W. Bush. Trump continues to reach out for allies, while minimizing military conflicts.

In a May 31 *Times* op-ed, columnist Ross Douthat says Trump acts this way because he is under the influence of Putin's Russia. Until Trump can be unseated, Douthat says, "I am content to have Trump's desire for détente balked by leaks, probes and the resistance of his military advisers."

This is what they're doing — with countless leaks from the "intelligence community" — seeking to cover Trump with smears and innuendo they hope to make up for the lack of any real evidence that Moscow pulls his strings.

The slanders about Moscow control are a key element in the liberals' impeachment schemes. They hope they can be painted as "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors" that the Constitution's impeachment clause requires.

Democratic Party politicians in Washington and their liberal media allies are now trying to puff up "leaks" that Trump aide and son-in-law Jared Kushner met with the Russian ambassador after Trump won the election to discuss setting up a "back channel" for communications when necessary. "In the Cold War, Kushner's actions would have attracted the stigma of treachery because Russia was an enemy of the United States," Emile Simpson alleged in *Foreign Policy* May 27.

U.S. National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster brushed aside concern about Kushner's actions, explaining this was normal practice for all U.S. imperialist

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UK rulers push 'national unity' to attack rights

Continued from front page

statement Clifford released after the bombings, featured in the *Militant*. "Working people and defenders of political rights need to speak out against the rulers' efforts to use the brutal attack to rationalize assaults on political rights," Clifford said.

"Prime Minister Theresa May's talk of everyone cherishing 'British values' is an effort to promote workers' trust in the government and their police, and get us to accept broader restrictions on our rights," Bellamy said.

"I don't trust either May or the police," Haig replied. "When my sister and I were sexually assaulted, the police didn't make a serious investigation. The perpetrators walked free."

Alongside an outpouring of sympathy with the victims of the bombing, the communist campaigners found distrust of the armed cops and troops deployed on the street and opposition to the firebombing of the mosque.

Police and army raids are taking place, with cops routinely using so-called "controlled explosions" to break into people's houses. In Moss Side, a working-class neighborhood here that has been the scene of several raids, one house sports a hand-written sign on the busted front door: "This is what the police has caused and we have nothing to do with what happened in the bombing attack."

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn backs the deployments. "We have to make sure we're safe," he said. "Let's come together in adversity, not divide ourselves." With support from all the bourgeois parties, the government suspended campaigning for the election until May 26.

"I don't like May going on about protecting us when she's attacking the disabled and old people, and protecting the rich," Stephen Taylor told Clifford, a workmate at Tulip Foods meatpacking plant. May's Conservative Party election manifesto called for means-testing for winter fuel payments to the elderly, scrapping free school lunches for infants and making more people pay for care in nursing homes.

There are numerous examples of support for the rulers' "our Britain" pro-cop campaign. The owners of the Chelsea and Arsenal football clubs — which respectively won the League and FA Cup — announced that they would not hold traditional victory parades, so as not "to place any additional pressure on police and security services at this time."

Officials of the Rail Maritime and Transport Union called off a one-day strike action planned for May 30. The union has organized several such stoppages in opposition to rail bosses' plans for driver-only train operation, eliminating conductors.

The government's "Prevent, Protect, Prepare, Pursue" strategy requires workers at local councils, schools and health services to report anyone they think voices "extremist views." A resolution adopted at the 2016 conference of the National Union of Teachers opposed the requirement, saying schools should be "encouraging discussion," not trying to shut it down.

The government is moving to add new strictures on freedom of speech to the program, making it illegal to "challenge British values" or "express non-violent extremism," the *Spectator* reported May 27.

At an election debate sponsored by the South Manchester Muslim Community Association May 21, candidates were asked their position on the charges brought under the rulers' "anti-terror" laws against Muhammad Rabbani, international director of the Cage organization, which works to defend those victimized under such laws. He was detained at Heathrow Airport and is facing charges because he refused to give agents the passwords to his laptop and cellphone, saying they contained privileged and private evidence from a victim of government torture.

Clifford said he opposes Rabbani's arrest and all acts of anti-Muslim prejudice. "That's why we have to reject the whole Prevent and Contest strategy, it's an attack on workers' rights and political space," Clifford said. "And we have to reject Labour leader Corbyn's anti-working-class call to expand Prevent's anti-Muslim focus to cover everyone."

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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—CALENDAR—

WASHINGTON, D.C.

"What We Saw in Cuba" — Report Back from May Day International Brigade. Fri., June 9, 7 p.m. *Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 5301 North Capitol St., NE, Lower Hall. Email: dcmetrocoalitionforcuba@gmail.com Sponsor: DC Metro Coalition in Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution.*

Rally in Vancouver supports striking Idaho silver miners

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — "Hecla, Hecla you can't hide, we can see your greedy side," chanted supporters of silver miners on strike at the Lucky Friday mine in Mullan, Idaho, outside the company's shareholders meeting here May 25.

Protesters held a rally chaired by Steve Hunt, director of District 3 of the United Steelworkers in western Canada. The Idaho miners are members of USW Local 5114. They went on strike March 13 after rejecting the company's "final" concession contract offer.

The Lucky Friday miners were hosted by USW Local 480, which organizes workers at the Trail, British Columbia, smelter that processes the U.S. miners' silver. Local 480's contract expires May 31.

John Darrington, one of the Idaho miners, said they got a very warm reception when they leafleted at a shift change at the smelter. They also visited Steelworkers Local 2009 in Langley.

"I'm just amazed" at the breadth of solidarity, said Darrington, who has worked in the Lucky Friday mine for 12 years. "Hecla's office is in Coeur d'Alene back in Idaho. I don't know why they came to Vancouver, I think they were hiding. The union here in Canada really stepped up."

Striker Rick Norman, two other miners, and one miner's wife attended the meeting and submitted written questions. "Rather than provoking a labor dispute, why didn't Hecla continue to honor the status quo and negotiate again when new mining techniques are proved to be safe and reliable?" Norman asked. Company officials made no attempt to answer the question, he told the *Militant*.

"The strike is about safety and respect. The company wants complete right of assignment to work in the mine," Steve Powers, USW staff representative assigned to the strike, told protesters. He pointed to the bosses' demand to eliminate a worker seniority-based team-bidding system that workers say helps to protect their safety. "Two miners were killed in 2011 because of shoddy mining practices," Powers said.

Irene Lanzinger, president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, and José Angel Hernández, a representative of the National Union of Mining, Metallurgical, Steel and Allied Workers of Mexico, also spoke. Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union from Vancouver joined the protest.

Militant/Mark Downs

United Steelworkers on strike against Hecla bosses' silver mine in Mullan, Idaho, and other unionists protest at company's shareholders meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, May 25.

New Zealand flood disaster is result of capitalist rule

BY FELICITY COGGAN

EDGECUMBE, New Zealand — "The floodwaters are gone but not their effects," Marcus Matchitt told the *Militant* May 13, describing the social disaster unfolding in this small town after a massive flood in April. The Rangitaiki River burst through a floodwall after rain from cyclone Debbie hit the region, inundating most of the town.

A wall of water pushed houses off their foundations, washed away cars, trapped pets, and flooded the supermarket, doctor's clinic and shopping mall.

Government officials told the 1,600 residents to leave. Many went on foot, with minutes to spare, taking only the clothes they were wearing. While the local governing council organized a few buses, official advice was to "self-evacuate."

Water continued to flow into the town until 11 p.m. the following night before the breach was sealed. Houses remained flooded for days.

Sixteen houses are beyond repair and will be demolished while some 250 are so damaged they need to be stripped down to the frame before being rebuilt.

Much of the surrounding farmland was flooded. Over 3,500 dairy cows had to be moved, animal feed was destroyed and milk dumped. The local Fonterra dairy factory, a large employer in the town, was closed for several days.

Edgecumbe residents had been warning of such a disaster for decades. The town is built on the flood plain of the river, much of which is below sea level. In 1987 a large earthquake sank part of the town further so that when the river floods it runs above the level of the town. Earth stopbanks (levees) follow the river for much of its course but for 50 yards alongside the town's center they drop down and a six-inch thick concrete wall — now gone — was all that held the river back.

At a public meeting on April 8 Tony Bonne, mayor of the nearby town of Whakatane, said that the rain was the problem and "I can't guarantee to protect people from massive weather bombs."

"The council noted the skinny little concrete wall had cracks in it in 2004," Raewyn Tulloch said from the floor. "Obviously they've done nothing about it. Many lives are going to be devastated."

Graeme Bourk, a plumber and member of the local elected community board, and his wife Gayle, a retired pharmacy assistant, were among a group of displaced residents Communist League members met at a church hall here.

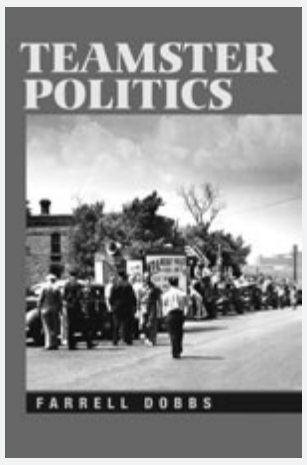
People were angry that the floodwall was not upgraded after the 2004 floods as the regional council promised, and that Trustpower bosses, who run a dam upriver from the town, allowed river flow to rise nearly sixfold for 24 hours before the flood. Trustpower should have spilled the dam well before the storm so it could contain the rainfall, they said.

Trustpower is a privately owned for-profit energy and internet company, using the dam to generate electricity.

After the disaster company and government spokespeople claimed they didn't do anything wrong. "Tough decisions were made and our data shows that these have paid off," Bay of Plenty Regional Council Flood Manager Peter Blackwood said.

This is "exactly what happened in 2004: poor information, poor flood management protocols between the regional council and Trustpower. Result: disaster," Colin Holmes, former mayor of Whakatane, told the press.

Continued on page 6



"Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party."

— Farrell Dobbs

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25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE Mmilitant

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

June 12, 1992

African National Congress president Nelson Mandela warned the South African government May 28 that it must stop trying to maintain white minority domination of the country.

Mandela said, "We have to move as quickly as possible to arrive at a new constitution which must enshrine the principle of a united, democratic, nonracial, and nonsexist South Africa."

"The masses consider this regime to be illegitimate," Mandela warned the government. "Through their struggles, they created the possibility for a negotiated resolution of the problems of our country."

Mandela emphasized that "not only do the masses have the right, they have the duty to engage in struggle to change their condition, change any government or leader they see as acting against their common good."

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

June 12, 1967

The war in Vietnam was blasted by Brig. Gen. Robert L. Hughes, U.S. Army Reserve, at a Memorial Day meeting in Madison, Wisc.

Gen. Hughes said, "In this new era of political unrest, we cannot police the world, we cannot impose our social system on other nations. We are losing the flower of American youth in a war that could stretch into perpetuity. We must disengage from this tragic war."

According to the Madison *Capital Times*, a reporter circulating through the crowd "found general approval of his address." "Somebody has to say these things," was one comment.

"This was a surprise package but I agree with him entirely," was another.

Those who disagreed added that they would "defend the right" of Hughes to state his opinions. One veteran said, "It was shocking, but he gave me something to think about."

THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

June 13, 1942

In an effort to halt the strike wave throughout the coal mining areas of England, Scotland and Wales, the Churchill government has announced a plan for the operation of the mines under the control of the government.

Britain's 700,000 miners have long been demanding a minimum wage. Miners have left the pits by the thousands. This has contributed to an extreme coal shortage in Britain, which the government is trying to overcome by taking over control of the mine operations.

So long as the control of the mines remains in the hands of government officials representing the interests of the mine owners, the grievances of the mine workers will remain as acute as ever.

The solution lies in a struggle for governmental appropriation of the mines and their operation by committees democratically elected by workers.

In Cuba, 'There is no future without the past'

Revolutionary Cuba responds to US White House

BY JIM BRADLEY

"Someone failed to tell Donald Trump the truth before the U.S. president congratulated the Cuban people for its Independence Day May 20," wrote Oscar Sánchez Serra in *Granma*, the official voice of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba May 23.

"The only independence Cubans celebrate is that one we achieved definitively on Jan. 1, 1959, with the leadership of our undefeated Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz," Sánchez said.

He was replying to a "Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Cuban Independence Day" marking May 20, 1902, which attacked and slandered the socialist revolution.

"Independence was not won 115 years ago," states Sánchez emphatically. "The story is a bit longer."

Sánchez tells the real story of Washington's colonial rule over Cuba and Cuba's victorious struggle for independence led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement that led workers and farmers to power in 1959.

And Sánchez explains the continuity of revolutionary leadership in Cuba, from José Martí to Castro. The editorial is titled, "There Is No Future Without the Past."

He quotes Martí, a leader of the Cuban independence struggle against Spain, who warned his co-combatants that they should beware of Washington. "I lived in the monster and know its entrails," said Martí, who lived in the U.S. for 14 years.

Sánchez explains that by 1898 the Cuban Liberation Army had "practically won the war against Spain. The colonial forces were defeated, and physically and morally exhausted."

The USS Maine mysteriously exploded in Havana Harbor Feb. 15, 1898. Washington used this pretext to declare war on Spain. Sánchez quoted Vladimir Lenin, the central leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution, who described the Spanish-American War as "the first imperialist war of the modern era."

Cuban independence fighters didn't know that the U.S. War Department had sent a letter, Sánchez noted, which called for "applying a blockade to cause hunger and disease — its eternal companion — to weaken the population and decimate the Cuban army. … We should create difficulties for the independent government" to force submission to U.S. demands, to weaken all contenders for power and eventually annex Cuba.

"This is the prelude to May 20, 1902," states Sánchez. "Can this independence be celebrated? Do these events call for congratulations?"

The Dec. 10, 1898, Treaty of Paris, which decreed the end of Spanish colonial rule in the Caribbean, committed "a grievous offense against the dignity of Cubans who were not included in the talks," he says, handing Cuba to Washington as spoils of war.

As a condition for the withdrawal of its military forces from Cuba four years later, Washington insisted that a piece of U.S. legislation called the Platt Amendment be incorporated into the Cuban Constitution guaranteeing U.S. control over the island's affairs. The rider included granting Washington the right to build a naval base at Guantánamo Bay.

"The Platt Amendment established a de facto neocolonial republic," says Sánchez.

"We are not going to celebrate May 20, 1902, but we are going to commemorate it, we are going to remember," Sánchez says, quoting Havana City Historian Eusebio Leal Spengler. "We must deeply analyze the republic to understand this revolution we have. There is no future without the past."

During his visit to Cuba in March 2016, President Barack Obama — like President Trump now — arrogantly advised the Cubans to forget about their past under the bloody domination of U.S. imperialism.

And to forget Washington's more than 50-year history of efforts to overthrow the Cuban Revolution. These included attempted invasions, backing attacks by counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles, economic sabotage, multiple attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro and more.

"Obama made a speech in which he uses the most sugar-coated words to express: 'It is time, now, to forget the past, leave the past behind, let us look to the future together, a future of hope,'" Fidel Castro wrote after Obama's visit.

Despite Washington's grudging re-establishment of diplomatic relations in 2015, the U.S. rulers continue to press to overturn Cuba's socialist revolution. This is why millions of Cubans marched on May Day, to honor Fidel Castro's historic legacy and to demand Washington end its punishing economic embargo, get out of Guantánamo and end its regime-change interventions into Cuba's internal affairs.

Chicago brigadistas explain 'What we saw in Cuba'

Militant/Laura Anderson

CHICAGO — More than 50 people attended a "What We Saw in Cuba" meeting here May 19 with participants in the 12th International May Day Brigade to Cuba. Above center, Arewa Karen Winters addresses the event at the Trinity Episcopal Church. Winters was one of the brigadistas who traveled to Cuba for the first time. Steve Eckardt, Chicago Cuba Coalition co-coordinator and a brigade participant, chaired the event.

"I went because I was interested in socialist revolution," Samir Qaisar, a packinghouse worker, told the crowd. "I had already learned about the importance of revolutionary leadership. In Cuba the July 26th Movement was that leadership. I learned in Cuba that leadership needs broad popular support, and they had and still have it."

Eriika Etshokin, a medical research administrator at Lurie Children's Hospital, spoke about what people in the U.S. could learn from the revolution. "This was my Cuba 101 course. We often speak about the need to end the embargo and how it would benefit the Cuban people," she said. "But it would also benefit us in the U.S. There's a lot of medical innovation going on there that we don't have access to, such as diabetes and cancer vaccines. I got to see a society where human wellness and quality of life is not a business."

Andrea Meza and Courtney Castillo, students at Columbia College, came to learn more in preparation for a trip they are making to Cuba this summer.

There are plans for an "In Che's Footsteps" brigade to Cuba Oct. 1-15. Che Guevara was assassinated 50 years ago by CIA agents and Bolivian army troops. Guevara had been captured while leading combat against the dictatorship there. The brigade, sponsored by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), will visit places where Che fought the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in Cuba and where he lived and worked helping to advance the revolution after its victory in 1959; meet combatants who fought alongside Che; and do voluntary agricultural work. For more information, email alatina.csur@icap.cu.

— JOHN HAWKINS

"It's the poor who face the savagery of the US 'justice' system"

"Prison was a tremendous school for us. We lived in a microcosm of the outside world. We're victims of the U.S. empire's giant publicity machine, which it uses to highlight whatever it finds convenient. ... The battle of ideas is the great battle that we must take up with young people."

— Gerardo Hernández

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New Zealand flood disaster

Continued from page 5

"They should wake up and stop listening to the rich and listen to the poor," said Rosemary Lowe.

Many who have lost all their possessions do not have insurance or are underinsured, residents told us. Mountains of ruined furniture, appliances and clothing had to be removed and dumped. "I felt like my whole private life was on the road," Gayle Bourk said.

Numerous acts of working class solidarity have marked the aftermath of the flood — from locals cruising the town in boats rescuing people and pets to those putting up relatives and friends to donations of skilled labor, money and goods. "We just had a truckload of tissues, toilet paper and nappies come in this morning," said Gayle Bourk.

A key role has been played by several local *marae* (Maori community centers) that immediately began organizing accommodation and food for displaced residents and volunteers.

The government has announced an inquiry into the breaching of the floodwall.

Graeme Bourk told us that residents have begun organizing their own meetings to discuss people's questions and plan what to do. They are considering a class action lawsuit against the regional council and Trustpower over the floods.

"We're not finished yet — we're fighters," he said.

March with Oscar López

Continued from front page

in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to advance the fight for the colony's independence.

Most of the parade's corporate sponsors — including Goya, Corona, the *Daily News*, Univisión, AT&T, the Yankees baseball team, Coca-Cola and Jet Blue — have pulled out, as has Gov. Andrew Cuomo and other capitalist politicians, along with organizations of Latino cops and firefighters.

Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, said in a May 31 letter sent to a number of area newspapers that the real aim of the anti-López clamor "is to divert attention from the growing discussion on how to end Puerto Rico's status as a U.S. colony and Wall Street's plunder of the island's resources."

"Working people across New York should join the Puerto Rican Day Parade," he said.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito released a statement signed by 35 elected officials, including a large number of City Council members, commending the parade committee for inviting López.

The *Post* let slip that López's political views, not his alleged "terrorism," are behind their slander campaign. In a May 27 editorial the *Post* falsely claims "in referendum after referendum, Puerto Rico's voters have overwhelmingly rejected independence." The paper reports that Puerto Rico's colonial governor Ricardo Rosselló told the paper that statehood is going to win "more than 70 percent of voters in the island's next plebiscite — which ironically comes June 11, the same day as the parade."

The *Post* conveniently forgot to report that just about every political party and labor union on the island is calling for a boycott of the plebiscite, except for Rosselló's New Progressive Party. The boycott was called after the U.S. Justice Department made the government of Puerto Rico change the choices in the plebiscite, further exposing the island's status as a U.S. colony.

López, a Vietnam veteran, was arrested in 1981. Like other independentistas who were arrested the year before and accused of belonging to the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN), López refused to recognize the authority of the court, saying he was a prisoner of war.

U.S. prosecutors relied heavily on the testimony of a turncoat informer, Alfredo Méndez. López presented proof that Méndez was promised help getting rid of a prior conviction from the FBI, Secret Service and then President Ronald Reagan personally. Méndez disappeared into "witness protection."

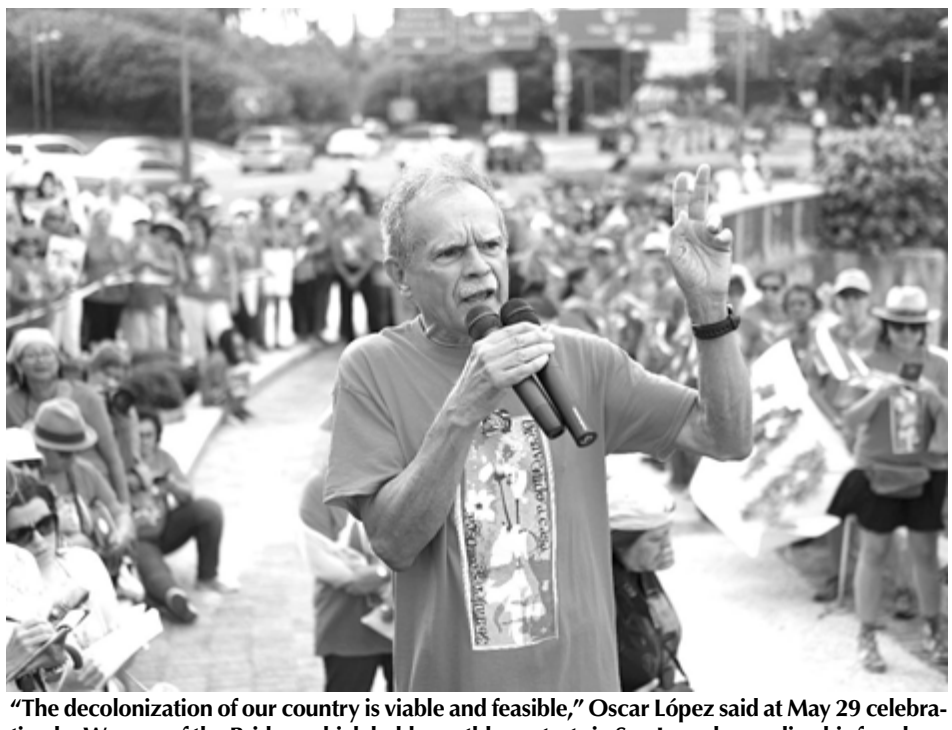
López refuses to condemn any form of struggle against colonial exploitation and oppression, but points out that he was never charged with being involved in any bombing or act of violence. The main charge against him was for "seditious conspiracy," that is conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government.

The *Daily News* has tried to link López to the bombing of the Fraunces Tavern on Jan. 24, 1975, claimed by the FALN, where four people died.

"I respect human life and I had nothing to do with what happened at Fraunces Tavern," López told Univisión reporter Jorge Ramos, noting that if the government had any evidence whatsoever, they would have charged him. López was in Puerto Rico when the bombing happened.

López pointed out that two weeks before the tavern was bombed, a bomb was exploded at a peaceful independence rally in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, killing two people, but the big business media never mentions it.

The FBI has admitted to collecting more than 1.5 million pages of files on tens of thousands of supporters of Puerto Rican independence over the last 80 years. A 1961 memo from FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover refers to U.S. government "efforts to disrupt their activities and compromise their effectiveness."



"The decolonization of our country is viable and feasible," Oscar López said at May 29 celebration by Women of the Bridge, which held monthly protests in San Juan demanding his freedom.

Wide range of views

At the annual Loisaida Festival May 28, a traditional celebration of Puerto Rican culture on Manhattan's Lower East Side, there were a wide range of views on the controversy.

"That's fine that he's out of prison," said Inocencio Pacheco, a small businessman. "But don't honor him. He did *something* or he wouldn't have been in jail for 36 years."

"There is a lot of disinformation out there," letter carrier Julio Rodríguez Aponte said. "López was not found guilty of bombing anyone."

"A lot of Puerto Ricans in New York don't know our own history," said Elliott Ray. Ray, who is unemployed, said that like other young people he started looking up things on his own and he's now "more pro-independence."

Retired worker José Concepción said, "Goya, Corona, they all make a lot of money off of us Puerto Ricans Who are they to say who we should honor?"

Fernando Ponce Laspina, a spokesperson for the NY Coordinator for Oscar, said supporters of López are taking advantage of the controversy to build the decolonization contingent at the parade.

"We have to take the slander campaign seriously," said Laspina. "But it's going to be a good parade. It will be more about the people, not the corporations."

After the parade, López will continue touring and speaking out in support of independence for Puerto Rico. In the fall he plans to visit revolutionary Cuba and thank the Cuban people for their support against U.S. colonial oppression and his fight for freedom.

Welcome Puerto Rico Freedom Fighter Oscar López! End U.S. Colonial Rule!

Upcoming events

Thurs., June 8 – 7 p.m. Hostos Community College, **Bronx, New York**
Fri., June 9 – 6:30 p.m. Crystal Ballroom, Taino Towers, Dinner Dance, **NYC**
Sat., June 10 – 6:30 p.m. El Maestro Cultural Center, Songs and Poetry, **NYC**
Sun., June 11 – 9:30 a.m. 5th Avenue, Puerto Rican Day Parade, **NYC**
Sat., June 17 – Grand Marshal Puerto Rican Day Parade, **Chicago**
Mon., June 19 – Oscar speaks at **UN Hearing on Decolonization in NY**
Mon., Sept. 18 – 7 p.m. Taller Puertorriqueño, **Philadelphia**

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Atlanta: 'We won't be silent' fighting deportations

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — "We can't be silent or complacent," said Luis Andino, standing on the steps of the Federal Building here May 20 with 100 other protesters. "We came to show support for Jessica Colotl, who is being targeted by the new administration after seven years."

Andino, 24, came with fellow members of the Lambda Theta Phi Latino fraternity at the University of Georgia in Athens. Members of several chapters of the Lambda Theta Alpha Latina sorority, to which Colotl belongs, were also on hand for the protest.

The action was called by the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, Georgia NAACP, Black Lives Matter Greater Atlanta, Georgia Equality and other groups.

Colotl, 28, moved to the United States from Mexico when she was 10-years-old. Colotl first gained national attention in 2010 when she was arrested on the Kennesaw State University campus near Atlanta and charged with impeding traffic and driving without a license. She was held at a federal immigration detention center in Alabama for more than a month. Protests initiated by her sorority drew national attention and won her release. Colotl graduated and has been working since.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement revoked her Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status May 3 and has threatened to deport her. Established by executive order by President Barack Obama in 2012, DACA put a moratorium on deportations for many immigrant youth and allowed them to work.

ICE officials say Colotl admitted to giving an incorrect address to a police officer during the 2010 traffic stop. Colotl said she had given them her previous address and had moved while the case was in process. Nonetheless "her guilty plea is considered a felony conviction for immigration purposes," ICE spokesman Bryan Cox told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

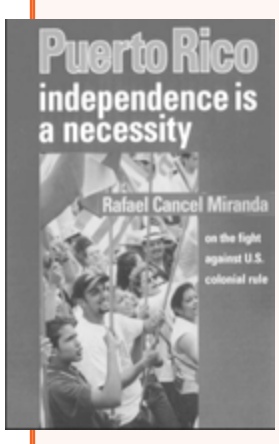
This is nothing new. The government has canceled DACA status for about 1,500 youth since the start of the program because of alleged "criminality or gang affiliation concerns."

Colotl is appealing her deportation order in federal court.

In the first three months since President Donald Trump took office, ICE has stepped up the pace of arrests of undocumented immigrants, reversing a trend of a decrease over the final two years President Obama was in office.

Janice Lynn contributed to this article.

"U.S. imperialism controls our country socially, politically and economically ... but our people are becoming aware of their own strength, which is what the colonial powers fear"
— Rafael Cancel Miranda



Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity. Two interviews with Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of five Puerto Rican Nationalists who spent more than a quarter century in U.S. prisons. **$6**

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution *by Jack Barnes, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party* **$10**

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Fight grows to stop Kentucky gov't moves to close last clinic

BY JIM BRADLEY AND LEA SHERMAN

The drive by Kentucky state government officials to shut down the EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville, the state's only remaining abortion clinic, has become an important front in the fight to defend a woman's right to choose abortion. It comes as anti-women forces are stepping up attacks on abortion rights across the country.

The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services told EMW its license would be revoked April 3 because its agreements with a local hospital and ambulance service were deficient.

"Calls to our hotline by women seeking abortions have increased," Marcie Crim, executive director of Kentucky Health and Justice Network, told the *Militant* by phone May 16. "It's gone from six to 10 calls a week to 20 to 30. And more women are attempting self-induced abortions."

Some 300 pro-choice activists rallied outside the clinic April 2, carrying signs that said, "My body my choice!" and "Resist!" The American Civil Liberties Union won a restraining order blocking the closing and then filed a federal lawsuit challenging the closure order as unconstitutional. A trial on the suit is set for Sept. 6. State officials agreed to back off shutting down the clinic while the suit is pending.

At 6 a.m. on May 13 as many as 100 Operation Save America thugs swarmed the clinic, blocking the entrance. The group was formerly known as Operation Rescue. OSA Director Rusty Thomas told the Louisville *Courier-Journal* they would be back in July.

The drive to shut down the Louisville clinic follows the successful effort over the past year by "unapologetically pro-life" Gov. Matt Bevin to shut down EMW's satellite clinic in Lexington and to block a new Planned Parenthood clinic from performing abortions.

"Whatever happens we will continue to have protest rallies," Crim said.

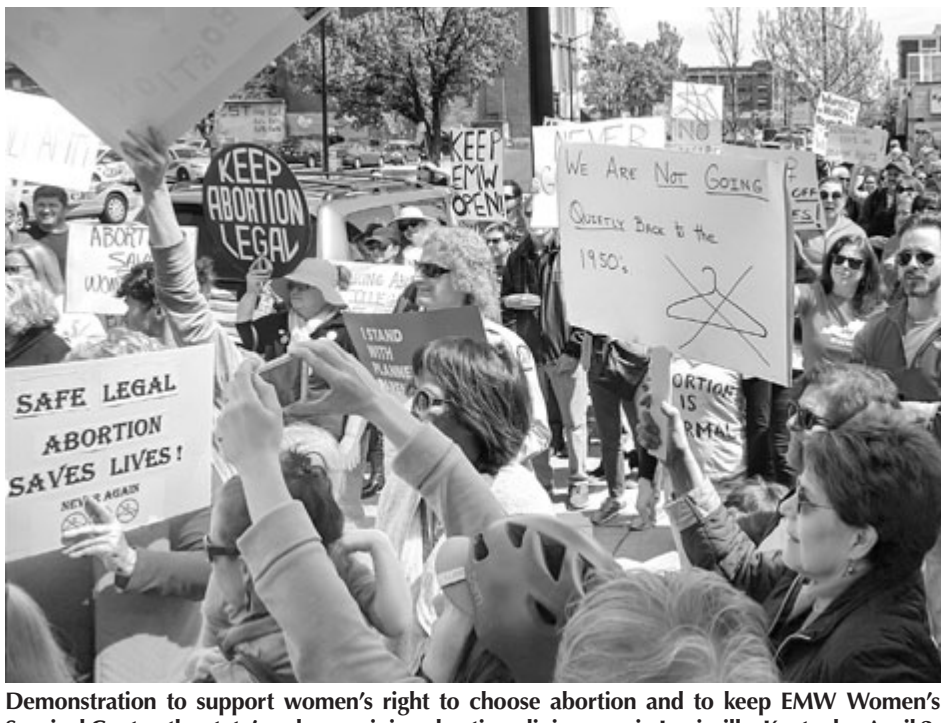
The right of women to choose abortion has been under assault since the U.S. Supreme Court decriminalized the medical procedure in its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Increased restrictions on the right to abortion and attacks on clinics — and the lack of sustained mobilizations against them — has meant that the number of abortion providers has been steadily dropping for decades. Since 1973 states have passed more than 700 laws restricting access, often under the guise of "protecting women's heath."

These attacks have "been made easier by the character and content of the 1973 court ruling," Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes said in *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*. "Roe v. Wade was based not on a woman's right 'to equal protection of the laws' guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, but on medical criteria instead."

Kentucky, which had 17 abortion providers in 1978, is today among seven states — along with North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Mississippi, Wyoming and West Virginia — with just one.

The outcome of the Sept. 6 trial on the EMW suit will have a bearing on other challenges to restrictive state abortion laws. Last June the Supreme Court rejected the Texas government's claim that it was protecting women's health by requiring doctors performing abortions to have admitting privileges at local hospitals and that abortion clinics meet hospital-like standards. Planned Parenthood, the ACLU and the Center for Reproductive Rights have filed lawsuits against similar restrictions in Alaska, Missouri and North Carolina.

Due to funding cuts and political attacks by anti-abortion politicians, Planned Parenthood recently announced the closure of 10 health centers in the Midwest and Southwest. This means the nonprofit organization no longer exists in Wyoming and North Dakota.



Demonstration to support women's right to choose abortion and to keep EMW Women's Surgical Center, the state's only remaining abortion clinic, open in Louisville, Kentucky, April 2.

Philippines' women unite in struggle for legal abortion

BY LINDA HARRIS AND JANET ROTH

MANILA, Philippines — "Three women a day die from unsafe abortions in the Philippines," Red Tani told the *Militant* April 7. Tani and two other representatives of the Philippines Safe Abortion Advocacy Network were talking about the challenges facing women with unwanted pregnancies here.

Pinsan, established in 2014, brings together 10 organizations to advance the struggle for women's rights and decriminalize abortion. In January 2016 the group hosted the first public meeting in recent years to discuss women's right to choose in the Philippines.

Abortion is illegal here even in cases of rape, fetal impairment or where the pregnancy poses a threat to the woman's life. There are only five other nations in the world where abortion is illegal under all circumstances — El Salvador, Malta, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua — and the Vatican.

"There are over 600,000 abortions a year in a country with a population of over 100 million," Tani told us. They are performed clandestinely and usually in unsafe conditions. An estimated two in every three women who have an abortion experience complications.

A woman charged for inducing an abortion can face up to six years in prison. Someone assisting can face up to 20 years. Police carry out sting operations against those suspected of performing abortions. News reports of arrests, prosecutions and convictions of women and providers on abortion charges are common.

Mary Jean Lagmay, a 48-year-old nurse, was arrested for performing an abortion in a police entrapment operation Nov. 16, inside the Vigare Clinic in Laoag City, 250 miles north of Manila. Police have since closed the clinic.

The Philippines is a majority Catholic country where the church hierarchy wields strong political influence and all attempts to roll back the law have failed.

"The constitution states that the life of the unborn and of the woman are equally protected," so hospitals are required to provide for women who need medical care following an abortion, Pinsan member Kristine Chan said. The numbers are so great that at the Fabella Hospital in Manila there is a sign saying "post-abortion care ward." This is one of the busiest maternity facilities in the world and delivery rooms are overcrowded. Mothers are forced to share beds, as are their newborn babies.

The Philippines is the only Asia-Pacific country where the rate of teen pregnancies rose over the last two decades. Single women have greater difficulties than married women in accessing contraceptives. The morning after pill Postinor was banned in 2001.

In 2012 the Reproductive Health Law was passed to provide greater access to contraceptive services, counseling and sex education. But the Catholic Church vehemently opposed full implementation of the law and it has been stalled by government officials. The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on certain provisions of the bill in 2015, limiting women's contraceptive choices. A recent Commission on Population statement warned that if it's not lifted birth control devices could be unavailable by 2020.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, in opposition to the Catholic hierarchy, says he supports making available contraceptives like condoms. But he has spoken out against abortion rights.

"Abortion is a reality for Filipino women," Claire Padilla, a lawyer and Pinsan spokesperson, told Rappler, an online news site. The fact that abortion is illegal has not deterred women, she said, "it has only made it more dangerous." Women who are poor, young or live in rural areas are most likely to resort to unsafe self-induced abortions.

"We believe that sexual and reproductive health rights are human rights." Padilla said in a May 28 Pinsan statement. "If women cannot control their own bodies, including their right to access safe abortion, they cannot exercise other civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights."

"Now more than ever," Padilla said, those who support women's rights "must join the fight everywhere."

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SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN

Join SWP campaigning in Albany!

Continued from front page

ers' growing refusal to accept this," said Trowe. "This is what the liberals see behind the election of Trump, so they demonize us and try to push us out of politics. They're determined to drive Trump out of the White House, but their real fear is action by working people," she said. "They try to paint Trump as a trigger-happy warmonger — it's the opposite. He acts to meet the needs of the capitalist rulers — talking to the Chinese to press North Korea, seeking stability for imperialist interests in the Mideast.

"Democrats talk admiringly about the so-called 'deep state' — the FBI, the CIA and the unelected federal bureaucracy — correcting the 'problem' of Trump's election," she said. "It's a dangerous witch hunt, because it's aimed at the working class and its vanguard."

"Every labor battle breaking out today is important," she said, describing how party members in Albany have gotten to know strikers at Momentive, in nearby Waterford, who beat back a union-busting assault by the bosses. She encouraged meeting participants to back the strikes by 175,000 construction workers in Quebec and silver miners in Mullan, Idaho.

"We want to win workers to seeing that the Cuban Revolution is a powerful example for the coming American Revolution," Trowe said. She and Hart were both participants in the recent May Day march in Havana.

Trowe urged participants to join her in taking advantage of growing openings to campaign for communism, to introduce SWP candidates, and to expand the distribution of the *Militant* and books by SWP leaders.

She invited everyone to come to Albany to help campaign for the SWP in July and August, and, as they campaign, to gather well over the 1,500 signatures required to put the party on the ballot.

The Albany campaign, she said, will be an opportunity to deepen collaboration with the SWP branch in New York and the Communist League branch in Montreal.

'Militant' fights Fla. prison censorship

Continued from front page

ticles in the three issues that match those pages reported on May Day actions calling for amnesty for immigrants and opposing deportations.

Florida regulations say local prison officials' decisions to impound newspapers and books are to be reviewed by the Department of Corrections' Literature Review Committee. Pending review, copies of the materials are to be impounded in all Florida prisons.

May Day protests across the country were widely covered in the media, both before and after they took place. Two of the *Militant* articles reprinted statements by Socialist Workers Party candidates urging workers to join the public, legal marches and rallies. The third was a news article headlined, "Join May Day Protests! Demand Amnesty for Immigrant Workers!"

"This is simply political speech and the prison censorship is a flagrant violation of the constitutional rights of free speech and freedom of the press," said *Militant* editor John Studer. "Prisoners have the right to read political and other news, to think for themselves and to consider different points of view. And the *Militant* has the right to have its point of view read and considered."

Prison officials in Florida were forced to reverse previous attempts to censor the *Militant* in 2013, 2015 and 2016, after the *Militant* launched a public campaign and legal appeal in defense of the right of prisoners to read material of their choosing.

The *Militant* has also successfully fought attempts to censor the paper at Attica state prison in New York and is currently fighting the impoundment of the paper at the Illinois River Correctional Institute in Canton, Illinois.

"Literature is not what causes disruption," a prisoner at Santa Rosa wrote to the *Militant* during the 2016 fight. "Nowhere do I recall literature causing physical violence."

Previous battles against prison censorship of the *Militant* have won support from the National Lawyers Guild; the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida; the New York Civil Liberties Union; Stop Prison Abuse Now, a prison reform organization in Miami; Paul Wright, editor of *Prison Legal News*; *the San Francisco Bay View* newspaper; the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; PEN America; the Riverside Church Prison Ministry; and others.

David Goldstein, of the well-known civil liberties law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman, will represent the *Militant*'s appeal of the Florida censorship. The *Militant* has eight subscribers at Santa Rosa.

Trump foreign policy

Continued from page 4

administrations.

Working people face unusually far-reaching crisis conditions today. Growing numbers sense there is nothing the bosses can do to turn around the economic, social and moral crisis of capitalism, apart from taking it out on us, including in their wars abroad.

The growing witch-hunt atmosphere aimed at Trump is dangerous for the working class, as the capitalist rulers use it to attack our political rights.

The rulers' foreign policy is an extension of their assaults on working people at home. The working class needs its own foreign policy, independent of the capitalist rulers, starting from solidarity with the struggles of working people worldwide.

Haitian immigrants fight deportation

BY CHUCK GUERRA

MIAMI, Fla. — Some 58,000 Haitians in the United States under Temporary Protected Status will have their legal status terminated in January 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced May 22. TPS allows refugees from natural disasters and wars abroad to live and work in the U.S.

The Barack Obama administration extended Temporary Protected Status to immigrants from Haiti after a 2010 earthquake there killed about 300,000 people and left 1.5 million homeless. Some 9,000 more were killed in a cholera outbreak spread by U.N. troops sent after the quake, and 1,000 were killed when Hurricane Matthew left much of the country devastated in 2016.

Department of Homeland Security officials told the press the situation in Haiti "has substantially improved" and the Haitian government wants their people back.

Haitian authorities said this is not their view and called for the protected status of the Haitians to be extended for at least 18 months. Hundreds of Haitians protested here May 13 demanding an extension.

There are citizens of nine other countries currently living in the U.S. under TPS, including Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Sudan.

"If it's canceled for the Haitians, we know it will be canceled for Hondurans, Nicaraguans and Salvadorans," Francisco Portillo, president of Miami-based Francisco Morazán Honduran Organization, told the *Miami Herald* May 9.

Cynthia Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami, spoke out in solidarity with Haitians and others covered by TPS. "The bosses in the United States use immigration status as a wedge to heighten divisions among working people here," Jaquith said. "We need amnesty to unite the working class so we can wage a common fight against the attacks by the bosses and their government raining down today."

Dental care class divide

Continued from front page

article in the May 13 *Washington Post*.

High-end cosmetic dentistry is booming, with members of the propertied ruling families and their upper middle class meritocratic backers spending "well over $1 billion each year just to make their teeth a few shades whiter," the *Post* said. At the same time, many workers — even those who have full-time jobs — don't have the money for basic dental care.

Millions of these workers are forced to rely on charity clinics or hospital emergency rooms to deal with infected and painful teeth. Hundreds lined up at one such clinic in Salisbury, Maryland, in mid-May, waiting hours to see volunteer dentists, whose "care" consisted mainly in pulling teeth.

"The country is way too divided between well-off people and people struggling for everything — even to see the dentist," Dee Matello, 46, who hadn't seen a dentist in nearly a decade, told the *Post*. "And the worst part is, I don't see a bridge to cross over to be one of those rich people." For years she had been suffering pain from a shattered molar.

Matello — like a number of workers living in industrial and farming areas, many of them Caucasian, had voted for Barack Obama for president in 2008 and then Donald Trump in 2016 — in hopes of seeing a change from devastating living and working conditions she faced.

Last year more than 2 million people went to the emergency room because of dental problems. Untreated tooth infections can spread in the body and lead to disease and heart problems. And tooth loss can make it more difficult to eat and speak, not to say of what it does to your appearance and self-confidence.

"What I am seeing is absolutely horrifying," the *Post* reported George Acs, director of the dental department at Chesapeake Health Care clinic in Maryland, told the state legislature. ER doctors just pass out "a perpetual cycle of antibiotics and opioids," he said. And this cycle spreads the opioid addiction epidemic throughout the U.S.

Adding to the scourge of tooth decay is large numbers of workers and farmers in rural areas, and growing numbers in cities as well, who don't have access to fluoridated water. The chemical fluoride, which reduces tooth decay, began being added to public water systems in the 1940s. Today fluoridated water is available to some three-quarters of the U.S. population. But 80 million people don't have access to treated water. Some of them draw their water from wells. Others have been seduced by a massive profit-thirsty advertising blitz to use "naturally pure" bottled water — which isn't fluoridated — instead.

More than one-third of U.S. adults have no dental insurance, according to the American Dental Association. Dental problems aren't considered medical problems in the U.S., thanks to insurance industry bosses and their muscle with government officials, and aren't covered by medical insurance. And those workers who are able to get dental coverage face high premiums and limited benefits.

Medicare, which covers 55 million people aged 65 and over and those workers who succeed in running the bureaucratic gauntlet to get disability, doesn't cover any kind of dental care, even though older workers suffer from the most serious oral health problems.

Some 72 million people have fought their way onto Medicaid, but under this federal program dental care for children is left up to the states. About half of children on Medicaid did not receive a single dental service in 2012.

Less than half of state governments cover dental care for adults who manage to get Medicaid. And only 38 percent of dentists accept Medicaid, the *Post* said.

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.